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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3011

836

October 12, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

Knowing that the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) continues to support the restoration of communications services in areas affected by this season's hurricanes, I am aware of businesses in my Congressional District and across the nation that are ready and willing to help. In this regard, is the FCC evaluating private sector offers of assistance? Further, do you have the authority to work directly with them, or for that matter, Puerto Rico?

Clearly, the FCC has an opportunity here to urge the use and installation of truly innovative solutions produced by American industry. However, these businesses need information as to how they may contribute. I would appreciate your guidance on how private sector companies may compete.

I look forward to your early reply. In the meantime, please extend to all of your personnel my thanks for their dedicated work to assist their fellow Americans in their time of need.

 Sincerely, 
Rodney Frelinghuysen
Member of Congress

RPF:sw



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 8, 2018

The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
U.S. House of Representatives
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Frelinghuysen:

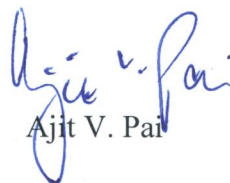
Thank you for your inquiry regarding opportunities for the private sector to aid in recovery efforts underway in hurricane-impacted areas. The 2017 hurricane season wrought devastation unlike anything we've ever seen. Yet, in the wake of these tragedies, we saw the best in people emerge. During my visits, it was inspiring to meet first responders, public safety officials, and everyday citizens who heroically stepped up to help their fellow Americans.

The unprecedented number of major hurricanes with significant impact resulted in many opportunities for assistance from the private sector to restore communications service capabilities. At the FCC, we serve to guide entities with innovative communications technologies through our experimental licensing process.¹ Through this process, overseen by our Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) we have expeditiously processed requests for experimental authorization of innovative capabilities.² We review these requests for their potential impacts to existing licensed users of the spectrum. Please have any businesses interested in filing an experimental license application contact Anthony Serafini, Chief, Experimental Licensing Branch, OET, at 202-418-2456.

We also coordinate with our federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) partners to support the identification of effective and innovative solutions for disaster response and recovery. FEMA or the SLTT governments of the impacted areas would be better suited to discuss the opportunities for collaboration in the areas of response and recovery. If interested businesses experience any difficulties reaching FEMA or SLTT governments, please feel free to contact Chris Anderson, Chief, Operations and Emergency Management, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at 202-418-1104. We stand ready to work with industry on new and innovative solutions for disaster response and recovery.

I appreciate your request for support in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

¹ See, FCC, *OET Experimental Licensing System*, <https://apps.fcc.gov/oetcf/els/index.cfm> (last visited Jan. 26, 2018).

² See, e.g., *FCC Grants Experimental License for Project Loon to Operate in Puerto Rico*, News Release (Oct. 7, 2017).